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1.

influential books of the twentieth century, The Lonely Crowd opened exciting new dimensions in our understanding of the problems confronting the individual in twentieth-century America. Richard Sennett's new introduction illuminates the ways in which Riesman's analysis of a middle class obsessed with how others lived still resonates in the age of social media. "Indispensable reading for anyone who wishes to understand American society. After half a century, this book has lost none of its capacity to make sense of how we live."—Todd Gitlin